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PRINCE'S NURSERIES,

Flushing, New York, November 1st, 1856.

CHINESE POTATO.

DIOSCOREA BATATAS, IMPERIAL RICE-WHITE VARIETY.

I HAVE, throughout the past summer and autumn, invited the public to view my plantation of two-and-a-half-acres of this inestimable esculent, being desirous to identify myself with the introduction of this most important plant; and after having devoted half a century to horticultural pursuits, I ask no greater boon of my countrymen than to award me this claim, which I have striven to merit more fully by its extensive culture. I shall also be now enabled to supply the many correspondents, whom I was unable to supply in April, without then breaking into the arrangements for my present plantation.

Having most fully investigated the merits of this esculent, I have a few positions to state in regard to it, which, being somewhat bold in their character, *I wish my countrymen to record for future verification.* 1st. I assert that the *Dioscorea Batatas* of *Decaisne* is perfectly hardy during our severest winters. 2d. That it is more nutritious than any other esculent we cultivate. 3d. That its culture is so easy and simple, and its product so great, that it can be afforded incomparably cheaper than any other nutritious vegetable, it having produced in France at the rate of above 800 bushels per acre. 4th. That the combination of every useful property renders it the greatest vegetable boon ever granted by God to man, and that its introduction to our country is even more important than that of Cotton, and that in twenty years our National statistics will report the value of the annual crop *as greater than the Cotton crop.*

Next I assert, that this plant alone has served to solve the enigma as to the alimentary basis of the Chinese empire, and that a statistical investigation will prove, that if that country were deprived of this one vertical root, and received in lieu every other known vegetable, more than one-half of its enormous population would perish from famine. Further, I assert, that such are its superior properties—the three most important of which I have above detailed—that it is destined not only to supersede every other Potato and every similar esculent in all countries of the temperate zone, but that it will attain in all these countries the position it occupies in China, and will consequently usurp a portion of the position which is now occupied here by Indian Corn and by Wheat; it being perfectly competent to make good bread, similar to that of Wheat, and capable of being afforded at an incomparably cheaper rate. As the roots propagate so easily and rapidly, it will, after a few years, become generally disseminated; but, for the first four or five years, millions of dollars will be made by its early cultivators, until all Countries are supplied. The stupidity and ignorance of those who have maliciously assailed this plant, will be understood by the perusal of an address delivered by me before the American Institute, which Institution awarded its Silver Medal for this vegetable, and has also in its Transactions recommended its culture as a substitute for the common potato. The Secretary, the Hon. Henry Meigs, has made a most triumphant report in regard to its successful culture in France. The statements pretending to emanate from the Farmers' Club of the American Institute, the last Spring, unfavorable to this plant, were *barefaced forgeries*, made from malicious motives—as was fully exposed. At the present time there are nearly one thousand persons in the Union who have the Chinese Potato under culture (mostly supplied by myself), and the public cannot fail to obtain from them satisfactory and conclusive information the present season for their future guidance. Persons who are desirous of ample information as to the last year's successful culture in Europe, can consult the "Mark Lane Express" and "Gardeners' Chronicle," of Great Britain, and the "Révue Horticole," published under the direction of the French Institute; which latter, in its last Quarterly for 1855, devotes twenty entire pages to the experiments and culture of this plant, and concludes with the following astounding announcement:—"This esculent has now been tested in every Department of France, even to its more northern limits—the shore of the Rhine, and it is to be deemed henceforth incorporated into the agriculture of France." I have taken especial pains to inform myself fully, by examining several very extensive Chinese Agricultural works which have been translated by order of the French Government, and it is the perusal of these works and their elaborate details as to the extensive culture of this root in China which

have most fully confirmed in my mind the vast importance of this inestimable esculent.

An Exhibition of these splendid Roots has been made at the Crystal Palace Fair of the American Institute, weighing 19 oz., 20 oz., and 28 oz., all of the present year's growth, surpassing any that have been produced in Europe, their successful culture here being most triumphant, and surpassing the most sanguine expectations. Splendid roots have been exhibited by Messrs. Hovey & Co., and by M. & F. Burr, at the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's Fair, for which premiums were awarded, and by others at the great United States Agricultural Fair at Philadelphia, and a Committee of that Society, composed of Col. Marshall P. Wilder the President, Dr. W. D. Brinckle, Col. Richard Peters of Georgia, Major Jones of Delaware, Thos F. Croft, and others, have made a most explicit Report, "that in quality it is fully equal to the Solanum Tuberosum, or Common Potato;" Mr. Edwin Henry, of Flushing, has grown roots weighing 2 lbs. from one tuber, and those who are desirous of further accurate information can apply to the Hon. Henry Meigs, Secretary of the American Institute; Hon. Charles Mason, Commissioner of the Patent Office, Washington; Dr. Jacob B. Garber, of Columbia, Pennsylvania; J. G. Sickles, Stuyvesant, New York; Charles R. Lincoln, Editor, Flushing, New York; G. R. Garretson, Henry D. Lewis, and Edwin Henry, of Flushing; George J. Squire, Galesburg, Illinois; Levi S. Loomis, Hazel Green, Wisconsin; Wm. D. Breckenridge, Govanstown, Md; R. C. Champion, Monticello, Iowa; and others who have grown and eaten of this esculent. There is not one person who has tested this root that has not pronounced encomiums upon it, and those who have attacked it hitherto *had never seen or tasted the root*, but advanced inuendos and *barefaced lies* from ignorance, jealousy or malice, and being men of no responsibility, they have been thereby shielded from prosecution and retribution. Two of them are *growers of Fancy Potatoes for sale*, and the others are editors of insignificant periodicals and penny-a-line reporters, seeking for *Black Mail*, which they, however, failed to obtain from us by their base falsehoods. We shall give their names, if necessary hereafter.

WM. R. PRINCE.

N. B.—The Dioscorea Japonica—Japan Potato, and other kinds, we only cultivate as fancy varieties.

TERMS FOR THE CHINESE POTATO.

In order to facilitate its general dissemination, I will, until Dec. 1st, contract as follows, deliverable between this and 1st May, at the option of the purchaser:—For 1000 tubers, $15 to $20 per 100, according to size. For 100 tubers, $20. TERMS:—One-fourth of the amount to be remitted with the order, and the balance payable on delivery. Twenty tubers for $5; Cash to accompany the order. After November we shall probably advance the prices very considerably, and again in the Spring.

NOTE.—I shall communicate in future through the "Tribune" newspaper such information as I shall deem most important in regard to the Chinese Potato, and of most interest to cultivators. W. P.

CATALOGUES, which are sent to purchasers of Trees, and to applicants who inclose stamps.—No. 1, Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, and Plants. No. 2. Roses, Dahlias, Bulbous, and Herbaceous Flowering Plants, &c. No. 3, Extra large Fruit Trees, Evergreens, and other Ornamental Trees and Shrubs. No. 4, Wholesale Catalogue for Nurseries and Dealers, comprising Trees, Shrubs, Plants, Stocks for Engrafting, and Tree and Shrub Seeds, &c. No. 5, Catalogue of Garden, Agricultural, and Flower Seeds. No. 6, Descriptive Catalogue of the Finest Strawberries. No. 7, Rare American Trees, Plants, and Seeds, suitable for sending to Europe. No. 9, Supplement Catalogue of Bulbous Flowers, New Dahlias, Pæonies, Chrysanthemums, Phlox, Carnations, and other Rare Flowering Plants. No. 10, Wholesale Catalogue of Bulbous and Tuberous Flowers. No. 11, Treatise on Culture of Chinese Potato, or DIOSCOREA BATATAS, on Licorice, Tanner's Sumach, Fig, Almond, and Olive. A new Descriptive Catalogue of Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubs, &c., 41st edition, just published, price 50 cents; but this charge will be credited on any bill of trees, &c., ordered.

ORDERS FOR TREES, &c.—It is indispensable that every order be plainly and regularly made out, and not mixed up and confused with the letter, and that plain directions how they are to be marked and forwarded should immediately follow the order, so as to be complete and distinct from the letter. All Packages of Trees, Plants, &c., will be marked and forwarded as requested, by Express or otherwise, and a Receipt taken therefor, and forwarded to the Purchaser, after which our responsibility ceases.

SPECIAL NOTE.—As many silly people deem every new thing to be a humbug, and may suppose that I am anxious to press the sale of this esculent, I now state that I never have, and do not now solicit any one to purchase, but deem it a favor conferred on the purchasers when I supply them.